IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 12553 of 2000

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE P.B.MAJMUDAR

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : NO

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the Civil Judge? : NO

RAJESHKUMAR JOITARAM PATEL

Versus

DIRECTOR

Appearance:

MR IS SUPEHIA for Petitioner

MR PREMAL JOSHI, AGP for Respondent No. 1, 2

CORAM : MR.JUSTICE P.B.MAJMUDAR

Date of decision: 14/06/2001

ORAL JUDGEMENT

#. The father of the petitioner was serving as Live Stock Inspector under the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar. While he was in service he died on 10.4.1997. The petitioner made an application

for compassionate appointment, but initially that request was turned down by the Department by order dated 3.7.1998 on the ground that the income of the family exceeds the prescribe limit. Subsequently, the petitioner filed Special Civil Application No.3840 of 2000 before this Court. This court by order dated 26.4.2000 directed the respondent No.1 to consider the case of the petitioner in light of the observations made in the order. Thereafter, ultimately by order dated 15.11.2000 the request of the petitioner was turned down on the ground that as per the letter of the State Government dated 25.10.2000 no compassionate appointment can be given to the petitioner. The said letter dated 25.10.2000 is not on record. However, Mr.Supehia for the petitioner argued that as per the order dated 19.5.2000 which was passed by the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar the case of the petitioner was turned down only on the ground of income criteria and that the Department has taken into consideration the income of the pension received by the family of the deceased. However, in the impugned order at page 20 dated 15.11.2000 there is no mention as to on what ground the request of the petitioner was turned down.

#. So far as the income of the family pension is concerned, this Court has taken the view in Special Civil Application No.11020 of 1993 in the case of Dilipainh B Rathod Vs. State of Gujarat that while considering the total income of the family of the deceased, income of the pension is not required to be taken into consideration. In para 3 it has been observed by this Court as under :

"Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that while computing the monthly income for the purpose of examining the eligibility for seeking appointment on compassionate grounds, the family pension cannot be included and the appointment on compassionate grounds cannot be denied on the ground of receipt of family pension. To buttress his argument, the learned counsel for the petitioner has placed reliance on a decision of this Court on the case of C.B.Maru V Dhanduka Nagar Panchayat, reported in 1993 (2) G.L.H. 822 and yet another decision of this Court in the case of Manubhai Gothabhai Desai V State of Gujarat and ors, reported in 1998(1) GLH (UJ) 23. In C.B.Maru's case (supra), this Court while placing reliance in the case of Smt.Phoolwati Vs Union of India and ors, reported in AIR 1991 SC 469 has taken the view that merely because the widow of the deceased employee was entitled to

some retiral benefits, that by itself can never be made ground to refuse appointment to the son of the deceased employee on compassionate grounds. In that case, the widow of the deceased employee was getting a family pension of Rs.645/per month and her husband had died on 15th October 1990. In the case of C.B.Maru (Supra) the other details of income regarding Dearness Allowance, Medical Allowance, etc. had not been given, but looking to the amount of family pension of Rs.645/-, it is obvious that if the Dearness Allowance, and Medical Allowance had been taken into consideration, the income may have exceeded Rs.1000/-. In the present case, the father of the petitioner had died in April, 1991 and, in the case of C.B.Maru (Supra), the date of the death of deceased is October 1990 and, therefore, there is hardly a difference of about six months in the date of the death. Even if 505 Dearness Allowance is added to Rs.645/-, it would come to Rs.645/- + Rs.322.50, i.e. Rs.967.50/-, and to that, even if the Medical Allowance of Rs.75/- is added or even Rs.50/-, it would exceed Rs.1000/-. In any case, the fact remains that this Court has taken the view in the case of C.B.Maru, that appointment on compassionate grounds cannot be denied on the ground of receipt of retiral benefits including the amount of family pension. In another case of Manubhai Gothabhai Desai (Supra) this Court while placing reliance on C.B.Maru's case (supra) has categorically observed that while computing the income of the family, the amount of pension ought not to have been considered. In this view of the matter, there remains no scope to sustain the stand taken by the respondents to take the monthly income of the family in the present case to be more than Rs.1000/- merely because the widow i.e. petitioner's mother is getting Rs.450/- and the total income of the pension in Rs.908/-. If the income of the pension is not to be included as has been held by this Court in the cases aforesaid, the monthly income of the petitioner's family would certainly come out to be less than Rs.1000/- and therefore, this Court has no hesitation in holding that the stand taken by the respondents and the denial of the consideration of the petitioner's case for appointment on compassionate grounds as has been taken by the respondents and conveyed to the petitioner is not at all tenable in eye of law.

> On such grounds, the petitioner's application could not be rejected for appointment on compassionate grounds. The communication sent to the petitioner as contained in Annexure `A' dated 9.6.1992 rejecting his application is, therefore, set aside. The respondents are directed to consider the petitioner's application for appointment on compassionate grounds in accordance with law and in doing so, the appointment shall not be denied to the petitioner on the ground that the monthly income of the family exceeds Rs.1000/-. The respondents are directed to take a decision on the petitioner's application for appointment on compassionate grounds, at the earliest possible opportunity and issue appropriate orders in accordance with law within a shortest possible period, but in no case, later than a period of one month from the date of copy of this order is served upon the Respondent authority. This Special Civil Application is accordingly allowed and the Rule is made absolute in the terms aforesaid. It would be open for the petitioner to serve the certified copy of this order and for that purpose, direct service is permitted."

#. Therefore, naturally while deciding the question of compassionate appointment and considering the income criteria as per the aforesaid order of this Court, income of family pension is not required to be taken into consideration. However, in the instant case, there is nothing on record to show that the request of the petitioner was turned down on the aforesaid ground.

#. Under these circumstances, the petition is required to be allowed and the matter is required to be sent back to the State Government again to reconsider the case of the petitioner for appointment on compassionate ground in accordance with law. The respondent authority is directed to dispose of the application of the petitioner for appointment on compassionate ground as early as possible and preferably within a period of three months from the date of the receipt of the writ of this order. It is expected that the authority will give reasons while disposing of the application of the petitioner for appointment on compassionate ground. While taking such decision, the income of the family pension is not required to be taken into consideration. The writ of this order to be sent forthwith. Rule is made absolute accordingly with no order as to costs.

(P.B.Majmudar,J)

(pathan)